FOR CHERDI B. JAGAN

"Thou shalt lie down
with patriarchs of the ancient world - with kings,
the powerful of the earth - the wise, the good,
Fair forms, and hoary seers of ages past,
All in one mighty sepulcher."
(THANATOPSIS, W.C. Bryant)

You astride
those chained-tenements:
mule-boy dreaming of lawned-bungalows
canecutter asserting his Voice
in native alphabets.

You astride
those forbidden fenced-yards
white images of regal sanctity,
jostling words with Governor
Colonial Secretary
King, Queen...

Your scroll has empowered
the voiceless
the nationless

You are not dead
but paged mightier, brighter
in each babe
each age...

Rooplall Monar